

California, families were cut off from their loved ones living in long-term care facilities. These decisions to isolate long-term care facility residents were fatal and will have long-lasting impacts.

Think of the damage that has been caused to people like Melody Stark of California, whose husband had been living in a nursing home for 5 years prior to the pandemic. In March 2020, Melody was on her way to the nursing home for their usual Friday night dinner date when she got a phone call informing her that nonessential visitors were no longer allowed due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

Who could be more essential than one's lifelong partner and spouse?

Melody recounted that "what we thought would be a couple of weeks turned into months and months. There were no virtual or window visits facilitated, and it felt as if everyone except families were wholly unaware of the impact of isolation, depression, and lack of psychosocial support."

Melody continued by saying: "My usually optimistic husband sounded increasingly sad and said things like: 'This is no way to live,' and he would cry. Over time, this led to drastic decline that affected his physical health as well as his mental health. By November 22, 2020, his health had declined to the point that he was hospitalized and passed away. He did not die from COVID but from failure to thrive due to isolation in long-term care. The last time I hugged my husband was when I carried his ashes from the car to the church."

Mr. Speaker, Melody Stark's husband might still be with us today if he had been allowed access to an essential caregiver. That is why we must take action on H.R. 3733.

I am urging all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to join me because this is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of compassion and doing the right thing for our fellow Americans who so desperately need our help.

Again, I am grateful to my cosponsor, Representative LARSON, who has so graciously come on board, and so many other Members, in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard me share these stories before, and I will continue to share them until the bipartisan Essential Caregivers Act is passed.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TAX CUTS HELPED MIDDLE CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, we have all been forced to suffer through 4 years of hearing the Democrats spreading falsehoods regarding President Trump's middle-class tax cuts.

Over and over again, they claimed, with little fact-checking from their allies in the mainstream media, that this

bill was a tax giveaway to the rich. The Speaker, not trying to be outdone by her colleagues' exaggeration, claimed that the bill was Armageddon.

But, of course, as with many claims from my Democratic colleagues, this runs in contradiction to the actual facts. I will say it again: What government needs is truth, transparency, and consistency from its leaders.

The IRS' own data shows the Democrats have been shamelessly lying about a bill that led to middle-class families keeping more of their hard-earned money and creating more family-sustaining jobs. The data also shows that millions of middle-class Americans received tax cuts ranging anywhere from 16 percent to 26 percent in 2018. We saw employers nationwide provide bonuses to their employees up and down the pay scale.

Median household incomes were on the rise, and the IRS collected more revenue—I am going to say it again—the IRS collected more revenue in 2019 than ever before. Our economy was thriving.

Now that Democrats are in charge, they want to reverse the most successful middle-class tax reform in our Nation's history. They don't just want to return our country to high, uncompetitive tax rates; they actually want to provide a massive tax cut to their elite, coastal friends. They are trying to provide tax breaks to the same wealthy people whom the likes of Senator SANDERS and Speaker PELOSI rail against.

President Biden promised all Americans last year that his plan would go after the evil wealthy. So I ask this: Does this tax break for only the limousine liberals and those living in McMansions sound like President Biden is fulfilling his promise? Or does it, once again, sound like President Biden is deceiving the American people?

But let's not let the facts get in the way of a really good story. I am confident the American people are able to see behind the Democrats' deceit and will be outraged by their giveaways to their rich, elite friends.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### HONORING DIANNE HAMILTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a great friend of mine, a true patriot in New Mexico, Representative Dianne Hamilton, who passed away very recently at the age of 87 after serving for 18 years in the New Mexico House.

Dianne was more than a representative. She was truly my mentor, a colleague, a friend, and a person whom everyone looked up to and aspired to be.

When I say "looked up to," she was over 6 feet tall. She had an incredible personality; she was very quick-witted; and her gift was public service.

She was a military wife, so working for our veterans was something that she held very deeply in her heart. She also had an interest in the people of the communities that she served. She opened up the first domestic violence shelter, so this will be something that lives on in her memory.

Mr. Speaker, to tell you the number of stories about her would take up more than the time allotted today to share with you what an inspiration she was.

What was very unique about Dianne was she was a radio host before she got into the New Mexico House of Representatives. She had a knack for making everybody feel important, whether they were a student who had shown an animal at the local fair or if she was meeting with the Governor or somebody beyond.

She was worthy of every award she was ever given, which were things like the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexican Women. She was given the Citizen of the Year from her respective counties.

The world needs more Dianne Hamiltons because, truly, her gift was her heart. Her gift was helping people like me pioneer the way to public service where we could learn from a true champion. We learned how to work across the aisle, and we learned how to carry bills and negotiate to get what we wanted.

She was an inspiration and will continue to be even after her life because her family is beautiful. She was an inspiring mom, and she is a woman of such great character.

I can't sit here and say enough about her because there just isn't enough time to really give you, Mr. Speaker, all the aspects and all the benefits of having somebody like Dianne Hamilton not only as a friend but also someone who served and served with purpose.

Again, she pioneered the way for people like me to come up behind her. She taught me how to do things, to make relationships happen, and to be successful as now a U.S. Representative and before as a State representative.

The world needs more Dianne Hamiltons. She was a patriot. She was a mom who gave everything to her loving family. She was someone who gave of herself to her community, to her peers, to her friends. Dianne Hamilton is truly a woman's woman, a person who I will dearly miss. I know her family and her community will miss her as well.

And I just will always take with me the two biggest pieces of advice she ever gave me. First, she said, never let anybody see you cry. Fight for what you believe in and do it with all of the character and class that you can.

And number two, never leave your house or your office without your lipstick. Those are the important things I will always remember.